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Title: Need to grant a special economic package to provide relief to people of Western Ghat region, Maharashtra.

SHRI RAJU SHETTI (HATKANANGLE): Recently Western Ghat area has been declared as World Heritage Site. Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Raigad, Thane, Pune, Satara, Sangali and Kolhapur districts of Maharashtra come under Western Ghat region as also Dajipur and Chandoli Sanctuaries. Due to restriction imposed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the local people of the villages under the Western Ghat section, they are facing numerous problems. Their livelihood is dependent on the rural economic activities pursued by them in this region. Due to sanctuary and forest area, incidents of intrusion of wild animals into human habitation have also increased and hence the animal rearing for milch and draft purpose has become very difficult. In addition to this, day-to-day farming activities have also stopped due to huge damages caused by wild animals. Due to all these reasons income-generating sources/activities of these people have been completely stopped.

Keeping in view the above, the Government of India is requested to grant a special economic package to overcome the problems of the people and provide assistance to the distressed people of Western Ghat region, Maharashtra.